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# The Voice of the Phi Sigma -- 1880 -- Volume 02, No. 06

Phi Sigma

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24 Feb 1880

# The Voice

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Vol. II

No. 6.

Editor  
H. B. Wilson.

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## Editorial.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. F. E. Whitman for the aid rendered us in acting as amanuensis. We will please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Editor.

Owing to <sup>the</sup> physical inability of the editor at the time of writing the editorials, they will necessarily be fewer & shorter than if the case were otherwise.

Oft' has the silvery moon waxed & waned and still oftener the gorgeous sun following Fleet Aurora has sped o'er his diurnal course since your humble servant was last called ~~called~~ upon to occupy the editorial chair of the Voice. Then we looked joyfully back o'er a year of intellectual toil in the P. O. Now we linger a moment remembering the many pleasant evenings of this, another year spent in like pleasant & profitable study made still more interesting by the fortnightly hearing of the Voice. It has been a source of constant pleasure to us to note the energy with which each ~~resp~~ editor has bro't forth his respective issue and also the marked attention paid to the reading of them in the class. We trust that the interest shown by each editor in the past will ~~decrease~~ decrease in the future but that every one will strive



to make the next number entrusted  
to him better than the last.

By the kind aid of Messrs. F.E. Whitman  
and C.H. Small we are able to present  
two articles beside that of the editor in  
this issue. We should have had another  
were it not for the fact that some of  
the members expressed the feeling that  
we were receiving more support than  
rightly belonged to us. The result of  
this expression was that the chairman excused  
the one & only member appointed to help  
the editor from handing in his articles  
and it was only after much persua-  
sion that the chairman was induced to re-  
appoint the member to the duty assigned.  
Thereupon the Editor of his own accord  
returned to the chairman an article, which  
he had already obtained, that it might  
be presented in some future issue in  
place of his own.

But at the same time the editor in  
behalf of himself and all future  
Editors would enter his humble protest  
against the action of the chairman in  
~~xxxx~~ assuming to excuse of his own  
accord a member appointed to aid  
in bringing forth any issue. We do  
this for two reasons - 1<sup>st</sup> It is the  
privilege of each editor to obtain <sup>by personal request</sup> as much



aid as he desired besides that of the regularly appointed assistant. Now any editor desirous of bringing before the class a good & interesting number will of course exert himself to obtain this extra aid. Now if we fail to see why any editor should put forth these exertions ~~if~~ by ~~the~~ gaining <sup>such</sup> aid he loses his original & appointed supporter. This withdrawal of assistance seems to us but a death blow to the rising ambitions of future editors.

2<sup>nd</sup>ly. The Chairman has no right thus to excuse a member. The chairman is empowered to appoint members to duties, but it lies in the power of the class alone to excuse them. We have not time at present to dwell at more length upon this important point but we are ready to give at any time our authority for the statement made.

We once more thank Messrs Small and Whitman for the efficient aid they have given us, and trust that the Voice will continue to receive their ardent support, in the future as it has in the past.

Editor.



## A Few Great Astronomers.

Since some of the members of the class have lately shown that they are interested in the study of astronomy, it may not be out of place for us to mention a few of the great names, which adorn that science, and tell what they are renowned for.

Who more worthy to named first than Hipparchus, deservedly styled "Father of Astronomy" in commemoration of his labors, the results of which he handed down to future generations in the shape of a catalogue of the stars. Hipparchus was a careful and diligent observer of the heavens. He studied minutely the motions of the sun and moon and established the fact of the irregularity of their motions. But his great work as we have intimated above, was the catalogue which he made of 1081 stars. This has proved a priceless treasure to all astronomers since his time, as in it he numbered the stars and gave their carefully observed positions in the heavens. He was followed by Ptolemy, another noted Greek astronomer. — You have all



undoubtedly heard of him as the system which he promulgated and which bears his name, is spoken of very often. The earth occupied the center of his system and the sun and stars revolved around it. He was able in accordance with his theory to explain to a remarkable degree the movements of the heavenly bodies, but as we all know ~~he~~ now he made a fatal mistake, by regarding the earth as being at the center. Nevertheless his system known as the Ptolemaic system was received and adopted by most of mankind, by the colleges and places of learning for fourteen centuries! — At length it fell before the study and reasoning of Copernicus who came to regard the sun as the center of this planetary system. It took some time for the world prejudiced in favor of the old theory to receive that of Copernicus, but at length it prevailed, just as truth must and will always prevail. It must not be forgotten however that although he ~~is~~ was right in regarding the sun as occupying the central position, still his system was not devoid of error, and it fell to the lot of succeeding astronomers



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to wipe away these errors, and reveal to us the truth instead, Most prominent among those who followed him and adopted his theory was Kepler, the renowned Kepler, - a man who gave his life to arduous and unceasing toil. It had been supposed for centuries that the planets moved along the circumferences of circles. Kepler however discovered that their observed positions did not at all times agree with their computed ones, and he was led to doubt that their motion was circular. After eight years of toil he proved to his own mind that their orbits were not circular and was led to the <sup>great</sup> discovery that they moved <sup>were</sup> in elliptical <sup>instead</sup> orbits. The law of planetary motion which he had discovered and which he gave to the world was this: -

"Planets revolve in elliptic orbits about the sun, which occupies the common focus of all these orbits". This paved the way soon after for the discovery of his second great law viz: "That if a line be drawn from the center of the sun, to any planet, this line as it is carried forward by the planet, will sweep over equal areas in equal portions of time". - and after seventeen



7  
years.  
of labor and research he added  
this third law: "The squares of the periods  
of two planets are to each other as the  
cubes of their respective distances from  
the sun." The discovery of these three  
laws made Kepler famous, but in  
thinking of his reward do not forget  
the untiring labor by which he earned  
it, and when you are desirous of such  
reward, great or small, do not ~~for~~ bear  
in mind that first of all you must  
perform the hard work. — It was  
Kepler who exclaimed in regard to  
his book: — "The book is written, to  
be read either now, or by future genera-  
tions posterity, I care not which. —  
It may well wait a century for a read-  
er, since God has waited six thous-  
and years for an observer." Living at  
the same time as Kepler was that  
noted philosopher Galileo, aided  
by the discoveries of Jansen, of  
Holland he constructed and in-  
strument, before unknown to science,  
viz: the telescope. With this he  
discovered four of Jupiter's satellites,  
observed the phases of Venus, and  
made many other important discov-  
eries, which were received with joy  
by the followers of Copernicus, as  
they greatly strengthened his theory.



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And last but not least we may mention an English philosopher, regarded as the greatest genius that ever lived:— Newton. To him we owe the discovery of the great law of gravitation, which revealed the relation existing between all bodies of matter in the universe, and which greatly broadened out the application of Kepler's laws. It was a mighty problem which Newton had to solve, but he was equal to the occasion. Great results have followed from it, and great glory has he gained. —

Editor.



9.

## A Glimpse at Boston by a Phi Sigmaite

Boston attracts thither the stranger not only for what it is to-day but more especially for what it has been in the past. Two hundred and fifty years ago the city was founded, and from that time to this it has always been foremost in times of national danger. You will remember that the people of Boston have suffered two massacres for the country; one at the commencement of the Revolution, the other at the commencement of the Rebellion. But the history of Boston is well known to you as it is closely connected with that of the nation. Henry Ward Beecher pays a worthy tribute to Boston in the following words: "Here began American history, here American institutions commenced. Not that there are not other places: but the stream began ~~to~~ to flow <sup>at</sup> here, which has been as a river of life to this nation ever since, and it is continual. \*\*\* Boston has never ceased to be a brainfull of vitality, and full of the vitality of knowledge of liberty and religion, \*\*\*\*\* with whatever prejudices she may have been assailed, there is not on this shore a city, nor in all the plains, nor in the whole realm of these confederated states, a considerable town or city, that does not owe a debt of gratitude to the city of Boston."



10  
On the 9<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1872 the same element that a little over a year before had destroyed the best part of Chicago, layed in ashes the heart of this city. But ~~now~~ <sup>here</sup>, as in Chicago, when one walks about the burnt district he can hardly realize that where the large granite buildings are there was once a mass of ruins.

One of the first things noticed by a stranger visiting Boston, and particularly one from the West, is the irregularities of the city. In the first place the city was built on a peninsula consisting of three hills the highest point being 138 ft. above the level of the sea - one of the hills has been completely leveled. Further the streets <sup>for the most part</sup> are narrow and crooked; in the more recently built parts of the city, however, the streets are wider and more regular. The "neck" of the peninsula has been greatly enlarged forming what is known as the "Back Bay Lands"; whether this land is so called because some time back it was a bay, or because the bay was somewhat back from the city we are not able to say. On this "Back Bay Land" the finest residences of the city are built. Many of the adjacent towns have been annexed to Boston which adds much to the complexity of the city. All parts of the city are made accessible by numerous lines of horse cars the twistings and turnings of which are enough to confuse the best balanced mind even that of a Phi Sig.



mite who has learned to follow in and out the devious arguments of an opponent. Most of the streets are paved with cobblestones, some are macadamized. The sidewalks are mostly made of bricks as are most of the houses, the large buildings are of granite. Boston has a large, fine harbor and carries on quite an extensive commerce, but not so extensive comparatively, as formerly. The inhabitants are a steady going kind of people, courteous and obliging, but not as social as the people of the West.

One of the first places that a person visiting Boston turns his attention to, is the Common, an irregular piece of ground in the center of the city about fifty acres in extent. It is now covered with snow but as we walked up and down the paths we could appreciate its beauty when the trees have put forth their leaves and the grass is out in all its verdure. In the center of the Common on a mound is a large monument in memory of those who layed down their lives for their country in the late rebellion. As we looked about our attention was attracted to several large sleds with some fifteen or twenty boys on each gliding rapidly down a hill in the Common, they slide <sup>a distance of</sup> about three blocks passing, perhaps, over the same ground on which the boys of more than one hundred years ago built their snow-houses that were torn down by the British soldiers. \* On Beacon Hill overlooking the Common stands the State House where the laws of this Commonwealth are enacted. 26.



13  
listened to the words of Truth; there powerful sermons  
against oppression were preached; there public and  
secret meetings were held; <sup>from</sup> there the "Boston Tea Party"  
are said to have made their sally; there  
the British dragoons had their riding school during  
their occupation of Boston; now Joseph Cook pours  
forth there his words of wisdom. The building  
just escaped being destroyed <sup>in the great</sup> by fire.

Faneuil Hall, "the cradle of Liberty", or the place where  
an Hibernian said the libertines were rocked in their  
cradles, is another historic building. Many public  
meetings were held here before the Revolution. The  
lower part of the building has been used for the past  
twenty years as a market. The hall still retains its  
former appearance - a large square room with gal-  
leries on the sides and at the rear; the desk and  
some of the old chairs are on the platform. Portraits  
of Washington, Samuel Adams, Gen. Warren, John  
Hancock and others adorn the walls, and a large  
painting representing Daniel Webster replying to  
Haines in the U.S. Senate hangs on the front wall.

Last but by no means least among the attractions  
briefly noticed in this sketch is to be mentioned "the  
belfry tower of the Old North Church" where, "on the  
eighteenth of April in seventy-five", Paul Revere's sig-  
nal was rung, "one if by land and two if by sea." The  
church is on one of the three hills of the city and was  
built in 1723. Many of the houses are stand-



14.  
ing that were there when,

— his friend, through alley and street,  
wanders and watches with eager ears;  
but time has been at work and they look old and  
delapidated. On the hill near by the church  
is the graveyard where the dust of those who saw  
the city in its infancy is buried. The old tomb-  
stones with their quaint inscriptions are gradual-  
ly being ~~soon~~ worn and crumbled away by the storms  
that beat upon them year after year.

This is what has taken our attention and  
been of special ~~of~~ interest to us as we have  
walked up and down these streets that have  
been associated with so many ~~has~~ memorable  
events.

C. H. Small.



## Notes + "Ads"

As you know or should know we as a class subscribe to the Literary Review but we are sorry to see the members so little interested in its monthly issues. We trust that they will have more attention in the future.

Birthday poems "valentine" couplets & squibs of all kinds, grave or gay, sublime or ridiculous, dashed off at a moment's notice, by G. L. Beard - the poet of the p. o. ~~Man~~ —

Mr. Hulin thinks he is the coming man. But ~~has~~ <sup>and has not crossed the threshold yet</sup> he has been coming for the last 18 yrs or more, one may be led to doubt the seriousness of his assumption. —

Original designs in business - calling & wedding cards made & executed upon special order by Mr. H. E. Whitman.

As he sat on the steps on Sunday evening, he claimed the right to a kiss for every shooting star. She at first demurred as he came a modest maiden, but finally yielded. She was even so accommodating as to call his attention to flying meteors that were about



aid as he desired to  
to escape his observation & then got  
to "calling" him on lightning bugs,  
& at last got him down to steady  
work on the light of a lantern, that  
a man was swinging about a depot  
in the distance, where trains were  
switching.

Gas! — Gas! — enough to meet  
all demands — supply pipe open  
day & night — apply to N. H. W.

We take pleasure in informing the  
public that ~~Mr. F. E. W.~~ they have lis-  
tened to Mr F. E. W.'s last anecdote. —  
till he tells another.

A young & goodlooking gentleman offers  
his services to ladies as escort to ladies  
old or young, failing to obtain their hearts  
desire. See Hulin.

The attention of the members is called  
to the history of Peter the Great now being  
published in Scribner's monthly. Its per-  
usal will no doubt prove profitable to any one so  
ruined.

Mr. ~~G. H.~~ Beard has evidently of late not  
come to the class with any of his prepared  
and voluminous Speeches — as he has always  
taken off his overcoat.



A Yarn

- about -

A Long Sleigh Ride.

By - A. Yarn. Spinner, Esq.

(Note. At the earnest request of a large proportion of our readers to publish an account of the life in the lumber regions of the northwest and a slight taste of the vicissitudes of pioneer life we have engaged a gentleman who has experienced somewhat of ~~the~~ <sup>the hardships bearing</sup> ~~XXXX XXXX~~ and yet oftentimes very enjoyable times in a lumber camp. It has been thought too long to give <sup>this story</sup> in one or even two numbers of the Voices & therefore only a part of it will be given in occasional numbers of <sup>our papers</sup> the voice.) The part we present our readers tonight is <sup>(preliminary)</sup> ~~in the main~~ <sup>(Editor)</sup>

Many of the prosperous business men of today who are yet but in their prime can look back, some with pleasure & others with great sadness perhaps, to the days when what is now ~~the~~ the heart, the fountain-head of our country, was considered "way out west." 'Twas not so very many years ago that the now prosperous and busy state of Ohio was rapidly being filled up & settled by New Englanders and especially <sup>by</sup> the thrifty sons of Connecticut & on account of the large number of these people it was often called New Connecticut. But still the wave of emigration rolled on westward and <sup>at length</sup> ~~finally~~ it went a little northward into what is now Wisconsin & also into that



"burnt mitten" shaped piece of country ~~land~~ bounded by lakes Mich. & Huron & at the present time comprising the lower peninsula of Michigan. The sturdy farmer began to till the fertile and productive soil and raise the grain, fruit & vegetables for which Lower Mich. is so celebrated. But a new enterprise was soon to be started. It was soon found that Mich. was destined to be the future lumber market of the country. The supremacy which old Maine had so long & so grandly held was to be wrested from her hand & placed farther towards the setting-sun. Lumber camps were started and mills erected with mushroom rapidity and towns were founded which have since become thrifty cities and the busy hum & buzz of a score or two of sawmills can be heard in almost every lake port or river town of <sup>size</sup> ~~medium~~, say <sup>15000</sup> ~~20000~~ people. But we are not to look at the whole of that large state but will turn our attention to one place & there look into the founding, growth & prosperity & perhaps decline of one of these many lumbering towns. Altho' it may small and did not even in its prime contain <sup>more than</sup> ~~but~~ 5/ five mills yet it will serve us as a good example.

Early in the '60s the government was engaged in making appropriations for harbor improvements in occasional lake ports and render ~~fit~~ them fit for "harbors of refuge" to better



accommodate the rapidly increasing inter-  
 state commerce. One of these natural  
 harbors which the government greatly  
 improved ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> situated on the eastern  
 shore of Lake Mich. and about 200 miles  
 a little out of a direct line north of our  
 own city. When the contractors went <sup>there</sup>  
 to begin their work they found a little lake <sup>bean shaped</sup>  
~~bean shaped~~, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length &  
 about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide lying at right angle  
 with Lake Mich. into which it emptied through  
 a creek. On the south side of this little lake  
 is a hill rises, beginning but a few feet from  
 the waters edge, <sup>& extending upward</sup> to the height of 300 feet.  
 On the north, the land ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> level for about 1000  
 feet and then ~~the~~ another hill similar to the  
 first ~~arises~~ abruptly. On the N.E. ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> a little  
 plain about a mile long & of nearly the same breadth  
 & that too ended in a hill higher than either of  
 the others. The only exposed <sup>places</sup> ~~sites~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~two~~ two narrow  
 parts, one where the lake emptied into Lake Mich. on  
 the <sup>west</sup> ~~east~~ & the other on the east where a stream,  
 small, clear but quite rapid, one of those  
 useful, almost indispensable & means of lumbering,  
 flows in. Such ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> the topographical character  
 of a little town of 1500 <sup>people</sup> in which the writer  
 found himself <sup>during</sup> ~~in~~ the winter of '76 & '77 & from  
~~which~~ this little <sup>village</sup> ~~town~~, Frankfort by name, he set  
 out one winter's morning on the sleigh ride  
 he has been so long in arriving at. ~~It was~~  
 Lumbering operations are best carried on in



the winter but it is, not infrequently done in the summer. The reasons for this the reader will probably ascertain before he ~~the~~ finishes <sup>reading</sup> this tale. Having been promised, for many weeks, an opportunity for visiting the lumber camps & enjoying a ride thro' the woods your humble~~x~~ servant did wait with great impatience for that ~~to~~ much desired day to arrive on which that ride - ~~that~~ the event of the winter, was to be begun. At length it did come and it was Monday Dec. 28. Christmas had come and gone with its festivities but it had left its card in the shape of an ulster, an ankle warming ulster - the boy's delight - the man's resort - and the recipient was desirous, very desirous, of trying its beneficial qualities. After taking a good hearty breakfast and making ready for the trip the sleigh with plenty of robes &c behind two splendid horses - not fast but steady & sure - ones that can go 60 or 70 miles a day, was found waiting at the door. The sleigh was one specially adapted for its use & was what is called a "light <sup>pair of</sup> bobs." It consisted of two sets of light & strong runners ~~of~~ on which was placed the box. In this box, or "upper works," as a sailor would say, was a tight covered ~~the~~ box for holding halters, blankets & circles a pail &c which must necessarily be carried when driving thro' the woods. Getting into this conveyance, the start was made. With the sun shining brightly overhead & plenty of snow on the ground

It sounded right merrily to hear the sleigh bells jingle as the horses & sleigh sped away across the little plain to the N.E. of the town & headed <sup>towards</sup> the opening in the hill which bounded it. And where we will leave them till another time -